Travancore. The restoration and repair of minor irrigation works in the taluks of Tovala and Agastisvaram and the area comprising the old taluks of Eraniel and Kalkulam will, however, be done at the sole cost of the Government in conformity with past usage. In regard to the Trivandrum taluk, a committee has been appointed to examine the condition of minor irrigation works in the taluk, suggest the works to be undertaken and the order of their urgency, consider the cost of such works, and propose measures for securing the co-operation of the people concerned to the fullest extent possible.

15. The constitution of Irrigation Boards for the pumping of water from, and the regulation of cultivation on, *punja* lands in Central and North Travancore is under correspondence with the Land Revenue Commissioner. That officer proposes to hold a meeting of the ryots interested and Government hope to receive his final report on the matter at an early date. A preliminary investigation, by the Public Works Department, of the feasibility of utilising the water of the Sastamkotta fresh water lake for irrigational purposes is in progress. As regards the Adirappalli Project which was referred to in my last year's Address, Government regret to have to say that its execution is held up by certain objections raised by the Cochin Government.

16. As promised in paragraph 9 of my Address last year, I inspected the Kallada valley and the flood banks of the Kallada river in Tulam last, in company with the Chief Engineer. While it is realised that the best remedy for averting the inundation of this valley is the boring of a tunnel through the side-ridge separating the valley from the Ashtamudi backwater, it is proposed, before undertaking this costly project, to try the cheaper expedient of setting back the flood banks of the river and repairing the breaches and other damages so far caused, and then watch the effect of these works. An estimate has already been sanctioned for closing the breaches on the eastern bank of the river, while another estimate is under preparation for repairing the damages to the western bank.

17. A further examination of the question of giving one of the engineering officers of the State special training in agricultural engineering has disclosed that no such special training is necessary so far as the handling of drainage problems is concerned, as the success of that work depends upon the general engineering qualifications and the local experience of the officer concerned, in regard to both of which the regular engineering staff of the P. W. D. is sufficiently well-equipped. The necessity for giving special training in agricultural engineering, in the generally understood sense of that term, *viz.*, in engineering connected with the improvement of mechanical appliances used in agriculture, has also been obviated by the recent employment, as Agricultural Engineer, of the State scholar, Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon, who has received such training in the course of his foreign studies.

18. Economic Development Board.—This Board, which is composed of 20 members, of whom 14 are non-officials, has held 7 meetings since its formation. The Board has been empowered to deal with all questions of policy relating to the working of the Development Departments irrespective of any reference from outside, thus giving it considerable scope for initiative. Among the problems which have engaged the attention of the Board, special mention should be made of the extension of paddy cultivation, the manufacture of scientific manures, the formation of agricultural colonies, the improvement of minor irrigation, the utilisation of hydro-electric power for the improvement of industries, the promotion of banking facilities, the development of the co-operative movement, and the organisation of fresh cottage and other industries. All the recommendations of the Board are engaging the careful attention of the Government.

19. Agriculture.—The work of the Agricultural Department has continued to show satisfactory progress. The grant for this department, which stood at Rs. ·95 lakhs in 1094, has been increased to Rs. 2·322 lakhs during the current year. Experiments on paddy continued to be conducted in the paddy farm at Tiruppatisaram for the discovery of the cheapest and most effective manure for paddy lands in South Travancore, and of early varieties of paddy for

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